

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 14, Winter 2006/7

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

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ISKCON GBC guru exposes the system

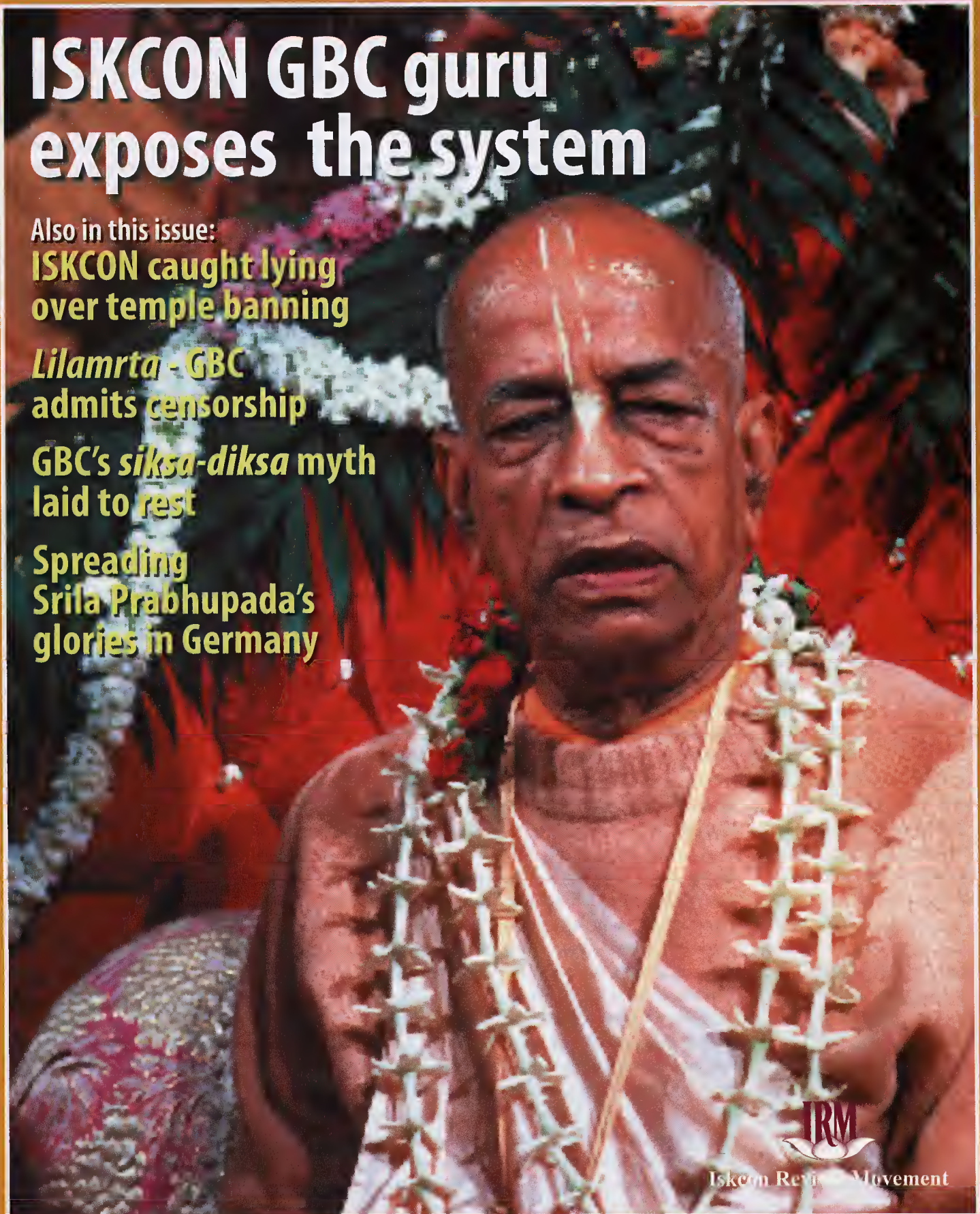
Also in this issue:

**ISKCON caught lying
over temple banning**

**Lilamrta - GBC
admits censorship**

**GBC's *siksa-diksa* myth
laid to rest**

**Spreading
Srila Prabhupada's
glories in Germany**



ISKCON Religious Movement

Who is really engaging in politics?



BACK TO PRABHUPADA
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Welcome to Issue 14 of *Back to Prabhupada* (BTP).

Devotees sometimes complain that the activities of the IRM are simply "politics", and therefore they have no interest in the IRM. They would rather prefer simply to "peacefully" chant, and not get "disturbed" with all this troublesome "politics". But does Srila Prabhupada actually define "politics" as being the IRM's pursuit of taking the trouble to help devotees who are being misled? Or is it "politics" to actually avoid this very trouble in the name of keeping oneself "peaceful"? Let us see what Srila Prabhupada has to say on this:

"For Vaisnava there is no suffering, personally. But he is very much anxious: 'How these rascals will be happy?' That is his business. 'These rascals are misled. They are going astray, unhappy. So how they should be happy?' So that is Vaisnava's business. So the Vaisnava, therefore, will have no politics. Politics means planning for one's own happiness. That is politics. So in our society there should be no diplomacy, no politics. Everyone should be eager how to do good to others. That is Vaisnava. If he's planning something, that 'I shall be leader,' 'I shall be doing something,' that is not Vaisnavism. That politics is not good." (Srila Prabhupada, Morning Walk, March 15th, 1974)

In the context of Srila Prabhupada's explanation above, "planning" how to distribute literature to help devotees who are misled about who the real Guru of ISKCON is, and getting attacked, banned and beaten-up in the process, is hardly "planning for one's own happiness". Nor is becoming infamous, hated and generally ostracised from the "society, friendship and love" of the devotee community! Nor, as we explained in the previous editorial, does the IRM have any inter-

est in planning to make a peaceful life for ourselves by acquiring buildings and setting up our own small society in which we can control these buildings and think - "I shall be leader" and "I shall be doing something" - whilst using *ritvik* philosophy simply to reject GBC/guru control and avoid fighting for Srila Prabhupada using the excuse that it is "politics".

Therefore, planning for our own happiness we definitely ain't! Planning for the happiness of the devotees, by ensuring they are not cheated, we are - even if it is not appreciated. We want that all the devotees should become happy by knowing the good news and truth that Srila Prabhupada is their eternal Spiritual Master.

As we can see, it is actually the desire to have a "peaceful and happy" life for ourselves under the guise of avoiding "politics" which is ITSELF the definition of politics as given by Srila Prabhupada. Sometimes devotees just want to be able to go to the temple and "hang out" with the devotees and do their service in the temple, and do not want to jeopardise this comfortable program. It is actually THIS which is the real politics, the thinking and planning about one's own happiness, rather than that of one's fellow devotee.

So, yes, the IRM is constantly planning. But we are not planning how we can grab assets and hold onto them, or what positions we can get or how we can be "peaceful". We are planning only on how we can give the truth to as many devotees as possible, which necessitates exposing the cheating done in the name of Srila Prabhupada, and in this way do good for the welfare of all devotees. Because out of all the "good" which can be done in the world, to help the devotees know the truth is what Lord Krishna considers the highest:

"For one who explains the

supreme secret to the devotees, devotional service is guaranteed, and at the end he will come back to Me. There is no servant in this world more dear to Me than he, nor will there ever be one more dear." (Bhagavad-gita, 18:68-69)

And in the *Bhagavad-gita*, Krishna had explained earlier that part of this "supreme secret" involves knowing that one must approach Him only via the bona fide spiritual master:

"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth." (Bhagavad-gita, 4:34 [1972 ed.])

Now it stands to reason that one cannot do this if one does not even know WHO this spiritual master is. And thus without this information one cannot even BEGIN the process of Krishna consciousness. Please note that we are not saying that simply knowing the truth of Srila Prabhupada's position as the Guru of ISKCON is by itself the panacea to solve all the ills plaguing either ISKCON or its devotees. Rather, it is simply the beginning of the solution. This truth has to be there first, before one can get any further.

Hence, the next time one hears the excuse that preaching the truth about Srila Prabhupada is "politics", know it that it is actually this very rejection of engaging and supporting the distribution of the truth for the welfare of the devotees, which is itself the real politics.

So support the IRM and stop all politics once and for all!

Please feel free to write to me at the following address if you have any questions, criticisms or comments: irm@iskconirm.com.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant



Letters to the editor

“Truth works. These blind ISKCON ‘gurus’ don’t realise that unless they stick to the truth about Prabhupada’s position as the diksha guru they are just like Ravana who thought he had the real Sita but who in fact had Her illusory form. When the demoness Shurpanaka was disfigured by Lakshmana in the Dhandakaranya forest, she immediately ran to her brother Ravana - who sent her for help. But these guru hoaxers can’t swallow their pride and run to the founders of the guru hoax. If so, they will have to run to Satsvarupa Prabhu and to a grave in Mayapura.

Having read BTP10, I felt good that this American guru hoax is finally being pulverised, superbly, especially with the article about Jayadvaita Swami. They had never expected that their cheating will ever be exposed and defeated as you are doing in BTP. It has caught them unawares - like an armed tactical unit suddenly invading a house of criminals. Now they are initiating in the closet, fearfully knowing that any slip could be reported to BTP.”

- Devala Das, Toronto, Canada

“To prostitute the sacred Maha-Mantra as Veda lifestyle course expounds is unforgivable. Please Krishna give you strength to carry through Prabhupada’s wishes. Thank you so very much for sending me the BTP magazine. I have been floundering- my faith deeply hurt. But not my love of Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada. My home would be open to do anything to promote Back to Prabhupada. With deepest respect and thanks.”

- Pauline Porter and Linda E.

Ward, Ipswich, England

“Dear Krishnakant Prabhu,
Read The Final Order and all editions of Back to Prabhupada. Appreciate your work and commitment and all that you are doing towards ISKCON revival. I am a devotee who joined the movement decades

back in the year 1980. I was also an initiated devotee but got disillusioned some 20 years back and kept away with myself, chanting my rounds and staying away from the mess, hypocrisy and politics. Wish to support and serve you in the noble cause you have undertaken.”

- Gyan Pandey (Gyan Krishna Das), Lucknow, India

“I was astonished to see how the eleven ISKCON senior disciples managed to stay so long when engaged in such illicit activities. ISKCON need to review the procedure for initiating future disciples. This is of the utmost importance for retaining the faith in the religious institution of ISKCON.”

- A. Gandhi, Wembley, England

“Back to Prabhupada is dynamic. We love it!”

- Zaritza Thomas, Alachua, USA

“Dear Krishnakant and devotees,

Thank you for the magazine. Let’s get back to Prabhupada indeed. Very interesting magazine. I do feel sorry for the GBC gurus. Fame etc. is very difficult to cope with. I am preaching widely in my own way - vegetarianism basics etc. ISKCON is very dear to my heart and I hope we will see kirtana parties on the streets of British cities again soon. Yours in devotional service.”

- R. Currie, West Galashiels, Scotland

“Like every other movement in history there have been those more enticed by the power, money and self-satisfaction than the truth. We know the truth because we know Lord Krsna - there is only one God, there is only one Guru and to be a true devotee one believes this - and this only.

For all the real Hare Krsnas out there, I think that this magazine is wonderful. We have all read Swami Prabhupada’s books and spiritual guides and we know what he requires of us. For those who think otherwise and assume that they are as significant as he has been are

just fools - pure ignorance and ego. There are many who have wanted to see this movement fail and the day might come because of these deviators, but there is no denying Lord Krsna and all the good that has come from the real Hare Krsna movement. Let us stick together and deny these impostors!!!

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna!”

- Stevie-Louise Dempster, Northampton, England

“Keep up the pressure on ISKCON to re-instate Srila Prabhupada to his rightful position.”

- Ashok Kumar Poddar, Kolkata, India

“I have had the chance of reading through some of your magazine and I will like to know more.”

- Enoch Nii Aflah, Ashaiman, Ghana

“I have been in touch with a devotee who gave me a BTP magazine. Many thanks, Hare Krsna.”

- Debbie Southall, Brierly Hill, England

“All I can say is that I am very lucky to have learned about Krsna Consciousness direct from Prabhupada’s books rather than from a phoney guru. Thank you for distributing this important information. Haribol!”

- Scott McNeely, Texas, USA

“May the supreme Lord provide you strength to fight against all the odds and return Srila Prabhupada to his righteous position. AGTSP!”

- Gaurav Porwal, Mumbai, India

“Obedience to guru is the only way of revival God Consciousness. IRM is doing just that, wonderfully indeed! ISKCON is a spiritual child of Srila Prabhupada and certainly has to run as he desired. My parents and myself have the same thoughts about that. AGTSP!”

- Dr Krishna Prasanna, Karnataka, India

“Keep up the wonderful service to the disciplic succession.”

- Japa Sinkowski, Ohio, USA

“Really nice magazine - thank you for sending it to me. Keep up the good work. Thank you.”

- Alex Dieste Hoare, Hampshire, UK

“This magazine is good. I will

understand Srila Prabhupada’s words, the truth and learn good words.”

- RR Parimala, Bangalore, India

“Dear Krishnakant,

Your comments in the editorial section in the latest issue of BTP were great. It’s really good that these bogus gurus are being exposed. This BTP is the weapon to destroy these false gurus.

You are doing a very nice service not just for Srila Prabhupada and Krishna, but also for devotees and all people!”

- Raju Suratwala, Birmingham, England

“It is very good to reveal the truth.”

- VB Mahesh Kumar, Bangalore, India

“Srila Prabhupada teaches us how we should live, and his books especially the Gita, is the truest and sanest book I have ever read.”

- Mrs S. Tedstone, Gwent, Wales

“Jaya Prabhupada! Hare Krishna. You are all doing great service for Srila Prabhupada.”

- Kanagarajoo a/k Rajan, Klang, Malaysia

“A wonderful eye-opener and giving us an opportunity to serve Srila Prabhupada.”

- Yudhistira Das, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Dharwad, India

“We must follow the instructions of Srila Prabhupada. I personally met Srila Prabhupada so many times.”

- Gopal Das J Pahar, Middlesex, England

“May Lord Krsna give them faith in God to be good!”

- C. M. Patel, Kent, England

“I have always felt that Srila Prabhupada was inspired or ‘led’ directly by Lord Chaitanya. I did not feel this with the GBC gurus. Quite a while back (in 1975-85) I was involved in ISKCON as a ‘FOLK’ member in Chicago and for a while in Los Angeles. I dropped away because of all the ‘scandals’ with the gurus and the schools. But I still have fond memories of many of the wonderful devotees.”

- Patricia Pompa, Illinois, USA

“I don’t know much about the

Letters to the editor *(continued from page 3)*

subject. But I like to read the magazine BTP. I have received a copy of TFO."

- A. Jones, Holywell, England

"Only the truth can set us free"

- Grahame Whitehead, Co

Fermanagh, Northern Ireland

"Well done for exposing the bogus GBC gurus."

- J Crowch, Surrey, England

"Thank you for the magazine."

- Vicky Gilson, Essex, England

"I have just received issue 10 of BTP and the Special Summary Issue, it is quite an eye opener about what is happening in ISKCON. I have only spoken to maybe one person on this matter but this magazine is really helpful and informative. Keep up the great work. Can you please send me a copy of The Final Order and can you please keep on sending new issues of Back to Prabhupada? Also if you can, can you send me past issues of BTP. I would really like to read them. Once again keep up the wonderful work in trying to save Srila Prabhupada's mission and his movement. All glories to Srila Prabhupada!!!! Hari Bol!"

- Jairam Jhinkoo, New Jersey, USA

"Hare Krsna! I love reading the BTP magazines and would appreciate it if you can please send me all back issues."

- D. Rambaran, ISKCON Richards

Bay, Richards Bay, South Africa

"Kindly guard the whole movement established by Srila Prabhupada."

- C S Nagendra, Bangalore, India

"Very interesting!"

- Sudevi Dasi, Texas, USA

"I would like to receive copies of the BTP magazine. I like the magazine very much."

- Jay Krishna Das, Secunderbad, India

"I had the good fortune to read issue 9 of the BTP magazine and now I must have more! Please give me a free subscription to the BTP magazine and the copy of "The Final Order" advertised. Also if available, any back issues would be truly appreciated. I will pay any

postage required if needed. Thank you. Your work is valuable to many. May Krishna bless and protect you."

- Wayne Watt, Florida, USA

"Keep up the good work!"

- Michael Ladigo, California, USA

"Well it is a commendable job that you are performing. Let Iskcon have a blooming future and let the confusions be eliminated."

- P. Satish, Bangalore, India

"It seems IRM is improving day by day and is reaching the pinnacle of success. Krishnazine members from the UK told us about Bhaktivedanta Manor, its functions etc., that it is too commercial. We never believed it but after going through BTP we came to know the truth. Prabhupada is now getting his position slowly (true position of Jagat Guru). We wish you all the best and are ready to help in your mission. Jai Prabhupada."

- Krishnazine Team, Bangalore, India

"Srila Prabhupada – the true Guru!"

- Basant Ghandi, Jaipur, India

"I have received several issues of your BTP in the past and found it a wonderful read that increased my devotion tenfold. Your servant"

- Michael Shea, Hollywood, USA

"I have been practicing Krishna Consciousness for over 30 years. When the "realised Guru" Srila Prabhupada was on the planet it was very good, now it's collapsed due to cheating "unrealized gurus!"

- Bob Phillips, Santa Monica, USA

"Back in 1978/1979 my greatest pride in life was that I was fortunate enough to be able to call myself a member of ISKCON, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. I was foremost attracted by the writings of Srila Prabhupada after reading Sri Isopanisad and Bhagavad-gita As It Is. I recognised His Divine Grace immediately as my eternal spiritual master.

When I joined the movement and was told that I could no long-

er be initiated by His Divine Grace, I was rather put off and disappointed.....but assuming that Srila Prabhupada had truly empowered eleven of His disciples to become Initiating Spiritual Masters, I allowed myself to be misled.....

Anyway, now after so many years, seeing things going from bad to worse in Iskcon, often I feel extremely ashamed to have been/ to be a member of the movement.

If there was no IRM - ISKCONIRM

- I would surely have distanced myself completely from a movement whose members can commit the most abominable activities, behave in the most detesting ways and still consider themselves superior. It is nothing but a big pile of human false ego, knowing well they are going in the wrong direction, but too attached to their status quo. They therefore continue worshipping the feet of fallen guru-avajna-palakas and become themselves also offender to Srila Prabhupada, the greatest Acharya ever to have trodden this earth.....

Seeing how obstinate the Iskcon followers are, simply makes me sad.....I have no desire to fight them, I have no desire to be angry with them, I simply feel very sad that they are letting the opportunity of many, many lifetimes go in vain.....

Thank you IRM, thank you Krishnakant prabhu, for opening my eyes and saving me from ruining my spiritual life. Without coming in touch with Krishnakant, without reading The Final Order, I would have been ignorant of the true facts of Srila Prabhupada's plans for ISKCON. It would not have kept me from abandoning Iskcon, as without this information I could already sense they were completely off, even though I did not understand what exactly was wrong..... your servant"

- Priya, Amsterdam, Holland

"THANK YOU!"

- Michael Scheffer, Oregon, USA

"Clarity is power and so by uncovering the fact that Srila Prabhupada is the Jagat Guru for the next 10,000 years, the ISKCON movement can realign itself with integrity and be once again at the forefront of establishing sanatana dharma worldwide."

- Bhakta Stefan Bakkar, British Columbia, Canada

"You are doing real good work. It should reach every body in the world."

- Suresh Babu, Bangalore, India

"I always felt attracted to the philosophy of ISKCON but could never accept easily submission to anyone claiming himself to be guru. I appreciate you for revealing the truth."

- Mohit Mehra, Amritsar, India

"I am glad you are doing noble service. I am very happy you are doing wonderful service. Please give me more and more information about guru issue. Thank you, Hare Krishna."

- Akshobhiya Das, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Jaipur, India

"I would like ISKCON to distribute the BTP Special Summary Issue freely to all persons in need."

- Gautam Bannerjee, West Bengal, India

"I am a devotee as well as my wife. We want to know the real truth."

- Kamal Chatterjee, Kolkata, India

"Keep up the good work!"

- Dwaipayana Das, New South Wales, Australia

"You are running on the path of truth."

- Amitabha Das, Navadvipa, India

"Hare Krishna- I am very happy. I read Back to Prabhupada, your thinking is a rare reality. IRM is a very big mission. "Srila Prabhupada is ISKCON", "ISKCON is Srila Prabhupada" - REAL ISKCON-Hare Krishna."

- Vikram Singh, Hubli, India

"Thank you so much for your service, very pleased to see your sincere efforts and love."

- Camilla Karlsson, Frolunda, Sweden



Letters to the editor

"Thank you for your consideration and thank you so much for setting the world straight! Hare Krsna!!!"

- Kimber Walsh, Nebraska, USA

"BTP is a very sincere and welcoming effort from devotees who really want to become pure devotees of Krishna, it helps one give insight into diksha guru system and of course a return to PRABHUPADA."

- Akhilesh Mimani, Bangalore, India

"Day by day I am moving closer and closer to God through Srila Prabhupada's writings. Hare Krishna."

- Divash Joshi, Harrow, England

"Dear Prabhu,

Jaya Srila Prabhupada. Please send me the latest issue of BTP, this is the only thing I get to increase my love for Srila Prabhupada. I wait for every issue eagerly. Please send me ASAP. Thanking you for the wonderful issues and glorious service to Srila Prabhupada."

- Ramana Kumar, Hyderabad, India

"Haribol! Keep up the good work! IRM is doing great and by all means I am on your side. Soon this will be over and ISKCON will regain its glorious days that Srila Prabhupada had founded! The only Guru and the only ONE who will bring us near to KRSNA! Thank you for still sending me free copies of BTP! I already got four issues, starting from issues 8 - 11 and the Special Summary Issue! And I already got "The Final Order" copy and still reading it... thanks!"

- Russel Brences, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

"All glories to Srila Prabhupada! Thank you for keeping Prabhupada and his teachings away from ISKCON politics. You are the future of this movement. Simple life, high thinking."

- Mark Stolberg, Brooklyn, USA

"Good to know the truth."

- Abijam, Awka, Nigeria

"Srila Prabhupada and Krishna's mercy are always with you. Please send me back copies of

BTP and TFO. Srila Prabhupada is the only authorised and bona fide guru of ISKCON. Expose all these fakes, bogus and so-called gurus. Keep up the good work IRM. Long live Srila Prabhupada! Haribol! Hare Krishna!"

- Vinesh Ragnanan, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

"Thank you very much!! - A.G.T.S.P!"

- Valmiki Das, British Columbia, Canada

"Don't let Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON become ruined as it's vitally too important. Jaya Radhe."

- M. Calvert, Essex, UK

"Although I am not an initiated disciple of Srila Prabhupada, I believe his teachings are the only way to bring about peace on earth and an effective way to return home. Any contradictions to His Divine Grace's teachings need to be rooted out."

- Scott Ridgers, London, England

"I feel that the GBC is not interested in preaching the Krishna consciousness philosophy as full surrender and dedicating one's mind, body and words in the service of Lord Sri Krishna. Rather they are satisfied with mass followers living outside the temples. Thus we find that so much of decline in the strength of full time resident devotees."

- Ratisha Das, Tamil Nadu, India

"I have been blessed for the past year to learn Krishna Consciousness from Prabhupada's books. From my own understanding I could see initiation should be done in His name - He is "THE GURU!"

- Kathe Aleman, Texas, USA

"Very informative. There is only one Diksa Guru - Srila Prabhupada. And the other gurus should follow THE FINAL ORDER."

- Vivekanathan Pillay, Phoenix, South Africa

"ISKCON is not ISKCON. IT'S GONE."

- M. Johnson, Western Australia, Australia

"I had the great good fortune of being the first devotee of Swamiji Prabhupad, met at

Ananda Ashram, etc."

- Harvey Cohen (Haridas), New York, USA

"Encouraged by Jagannath Das to read BTP and The Final Order. Shocking News!"

- Mrs Gita Singh, Phoenix, South Africa

"Keep up Srila Prabhupada's work. It's the only way to advance ISKCON. Jaya Prabhupada!"

- Bhakta Patrick McDonald, Alicante, Spain

"I want to know the truth of Srila Prabhupada's desire. Please send more copies about ISKCON's revival. Thank you."

- Saraswathi Jeganathan, Seremban, Malaysia

"It's extremely good to know the real truth. Please keep up your good work and I wish you all the best."

- Ashish Mittal, Bangalore, India

"This new section you have introduced "Readers' questions and challenges" is very much in the spirit of IRM, I think i.e. 'ready to preach the truth and only the plain truth anytime; we have nothing to hide'. This complete acceptance of plain truth speaking style of Srila Prabhupada is very invigorating to hear which is lacking even in most devotee leaders. Srila Prabhupada speaks the Absolute Truth, no 'ahems', 'buts', 'I think', or 'in my opinion' etc. Reading BTP and the arguments presented give me the same kind of perspective on ISKCON matters. So, please keep up the good work."

- Darshan Gowdigere, Bangalore, India

"I am receiving Back to Prabhupada magazines. I am getting an immense knowledge from it that Srila Prabhupada is the GURU."

- Srivarna, Bangalore, India

"Hare Krsna! Jaya Jagadguru Srila Prabhupada !! Let us go back to Srila Prabhupada first, then ONLY we can go back to Godhead."

- Madhava Sevak Pusapati, Andhra Pradesh, India

"Enjoy reading your publications. Keep up the good work."

- Umar Singh, Durban, South Africa

"Yes, ISKCON needs revival and reform. Please subscribe me to BTP."

- Dr. Ashok Kumar, Aligarh, India

"The living guru must be a holistic person, a person without blemish."

- Major Bernard Owusu, C/O IBN Infantry, Michel Camp, Ghana

"No doubt the Iskcon Revival Movement activity is most appreciable, and the movement definitely will be successful."

- Rao N.S. Giri, Andhra Pradesh, India

"The vital characteristics of any movement should be based on purity and truth. Anything besides is untruthful and demoniac and deceptive."

- R. Nehru, London, England

"Received the magazine from Germany. Liked it. Thanks in advance."

- Gunther Georg Milla, Timisoara, Romania

"As a (former) long-time "temple devotee", I look forward to your every issue, in hope that a purified movement will once again have a positive effect on human society. Peace."

- Gordon Stelter, Georgia, USA

"Thank you for information. I hope there are not hidden catches, please tell me where you meet and how you practise. Thanks again. Hare Krishna."

- Vitalijus Poliakovas, London, England

"I want to know truth about ISKCON to enable me to be a true devotee."

- Kavita Singh, Birmingham, England

"The position of Gurudeva, Hari deva and Vaisnava Thakura are reserved. So one should not falsely think that I am an instructor and controller of others, whilst maintaining the desire to become guru. Artificially trying to get dandavats causes one's falldown from the path. That is siddhanta. Our acaryas never considered themselves as vaisnava but now the opposite we can see."

- J.L. Das, ISKCON Vrindavana, Vrindavana, India

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

ISKCON's lies over temple banning policy exposed

Eastern Eye, an English newspaper circulated amongst the large Asian community in the UK, published the following statement from Gauri Das, the President of Bhaktivedanta Manor, ISKCON's headquarters in the UK, in its December 8th, 2006 issue in an article titled "ISKCON Denies Anti-Hindu Deeds":

"Second no one is 'banned' from the temple, except where they exclude themselves by disturbing the worship of others. Anyone is welcome to visit the Manor so long as they do not disturb the peace of others or prevent others from using the temple."

The above statement from Gauri Das is an outright lie, as the following banning letter issued by Gauri Das himself to Mr. Chetan Thankey demonstrates:

"The IRM is an organisation working to harm ISKCON, thus those who are formally part of or agree with the views and publications are suspended by the Manor Temple Council from visiting Bhaktivedanta Manor."
(Banning letter issued By Gauri Das, on ISKCON letterhead - below)



Regardless of the truth of ISKCON's opinion of the IRM, Gauri Das clearly admits that simply to "agree with the views" is reason

enough for being banned from the temple. Therefore, people are clearly banned only for what they BELIEVE, which is persecution based on having committed a "thought crime". So Gauri Das's own banning letter shows he is lying when he claims that people are banned from the temple only for disturbing others from worshipping, as the letter clearly states that the ban is actually instituted for believing that ISKCON's policies are wrong. Indeed, as further proof, one can note that those so banned must sign an agreement which states that they agree fully with all of ISKCON's policies before being re-admitted:

"I will abide by all the ISKCON bylaws as defined by the 'ISKCON Law book' including any resolutions passed by the GBC (ISKCON's Governing Body) from time to time."
(Part of a Confidential Agreement which must be signed by those banned in order to be re-admitted to the temple).

So not only is it bad enough that ISKCON bans people simply for believing that Srila Prabhupada is the Guru, but on top of that Gauri Das has the temerity to come out and completely lie about it, stating that those who were banned only for their beliefs, were actually banned because they "disturbed the worship of others". Unless Gauri Das can prove that the thousands of mainly Hindu worshippers who worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor:

a) Can read the mind of Chetan Thankey and his thoughts contained therein;

b) And would then have their worship disturbed by finding out that Mr Thankey believed that Srila Prabhupada alone should be the Guru of ISKCON;

then Gauri Das's statement is an out-and-out fabrication.

Why is he so afraid of telling the world the truth about his



Gauri Das: "no one is 'banned' "

banning of those who simply believe in a viewpoint different to that of the GBC, if he actually believes the ban is justified?

Srila Prabhupada-Lilamrta: censored due to guru pressure, admits GBC

Back in BTP 6, we published an analysis of the so-called "authorised biography of Srila Prabhupada", *Srila Prabhupada-Lilamrta*, written by one of the founders of the ISKCON guru hoax, Satsvarupa Das (Goswami), who was later prevented by the GBC from taking more disciples following an exposé of his illicit relationship with a married woman in 2004.

Not only does Satsvarupa's "biography" portray Srila Prabhupada as a conditioned soul struggling to maintain his Krishna consciousness amidst the rampant materialism of the West, but as we highlighted, the book audaciously fabricates evidence to support the Great Guru Hoax by inventing words Srila Prabhupada never spoke in the famous May 28th, 1977 conversation.

While Satsvarupa shamelessly desecrated the actual words of his spiritual master, it transpires that this was not the only truth in the

book that was suppressed, as the following admission from ex-GBC Chairman Ravindra Svarupa Das reveals:

"the first and major crisis was a crisis involving Kirtanananda. This happened towards the end of 1967. This is not in Prabhupada-Lilamrta, here is a problem with writing history, Satsvarupa Maharaja, this was Prabhupada's first major crisis when Kirtanananda tried to take his place, is really what happened in 1967. [...] It is not in the Lilamrta because when the Lilamrta was being written Kirtanananda didn't want it in there, and he was at that time one of the major acharyas and Satsvarupa Maharaja had no recourse but to bow to this kind of pressure and leave it out."

Similarly in Prabhupada-Lilamrta all the scandals of ISKCON are not discussed, first of all it's not about ISKCON it's about Prabhupada so you don't have to tell all those things. But it's the problem of writing history when people are around, so some things are in there. What Prabhupada called the fratricidal war 75/76 is in Prabhupada-Lilamrta, also in some ways it is soft-pedaled."

(Ravindra Svarupa Das, "Issues in ISKCON Reform" lecture, June 29th-July 3rd, 1999)

So here an ex-GBC chairman and current GBC and GBC-elected guru is confessing that facts involving "those who were around" with influence, were suppressed. In addition, many scandals are not included, and those which are, are "soft-pedaled". In sum, the *Lilamrta* is heavily censored to protect those who had a stake in the Great Guru Hoax, and thus has no credibility as a source of authority.



"Very advanced devotee": a new interpretation

GBC-elected guru HH Bhakti Caru Swami (BCS) has this to say about the spiritual status of Satsvarupa Das "Goswami"(SD), who was exposed in BTP 4 as having admitted to having an illicit affair with a married woman, but still occupies some type of "guru" status in ISKCON:

"Satsvarupa Maharaja is undoubtedly a very advanced devotee. [...] Although he is such an advanced devotee, we saw through him the danger of becoming isolated. [...] Through this test it has become obvious that his heart became even more purified and his attachment to Srila Prabhupada stronger. Therefore there is no need to worry about his accidental deviation. Please continue to regard him as your siksa guru and offer him all the respect from your heart."

(Excerpt of letter from BCS, posted April 10th, 2006)

Now please compare this judgement of SD's spiritual status by BCS, with SD's statements about himself (**Warning:** Satsvarupa uses extreme profanities, and since ours is a family publication we have not printed these profanities in full, but used asterixes thus ****, even though Satsvarupa has used the extreme profanities in full):

"I was chief once and then came down. It's obvious I broke down and the nervous system can't take it anymore."

"But that fuc** love I missed all those years was covered over [...] Night train blue mist nature's all aflitter in fuc*** spring so why are you withholding?"**

"Japa beads don't seem like prayer to me anymore."

"I'm reading John Fante instead of the Gita. I'm not doing wrong."

"So, you're getting better? You want to tell official disciples you want loving with them? Do you mean that in your gut? No,

I don't love them. Just a few of them. It's getting irrelevant this guru-sisya stuff."

(All quotations from SD's latest book of poems, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, 2006)

It should be clear from Satsvarupa's use of profanity and his other statements, that his first statement about having "broke down" as a result of his fall is true, and he is no longer even well, not to speak of being a "very advanced devotee" whose heart has "become even more purified" as a result of his falldown. This horrendous error of judgement on the part of BCS shows he is so committed to covering-up for his fellow guru hoaxers, that he will urge people to take spiritual shelter of someone who by his own admission does not even wish to give it. SD states: "It's getting irrelevant this guru-sisya stuff", whilst BCS urges everyone to continue to regard SD as their "siksa guru". If BCS cannot even judge someone's level of spiritual advancement accurately, how is he himself able to discriminate between truth and illusion and offer spiritual guidance to others whilst claiming to be their guru?

At the same time, BCS also states:

"We all have a solemn responsibility to keep Srila Prabhupada's house clean, and if anyone is bringing in any kind of impurity, then he must be corrected and punished if necessary."

(Excerpt of letter from BCS, posted April 10th, 2006)

Thus, we have the hugely hypocritical situation of on the one hand BCS saying that anyone bringing in any kind of impurity into ISKCON should be corrected and even punished; whilst on the other, BCS considers SD's self-admitted masquerading as a *sannyasi* (celibate renunciant) and guru taking disciples, whilst conducting an illicit affair with a married woman, not even an impurity but something which led to more purification!

Such hypocrisy is only to be expected from BCS since he poses as a *diksa* guru successor to Srila Prabhupada in direct disobedience to Srila Prabhupada's orders to keep him as the sole *diksa* Guru in ISKCON.

Spiritual master or physical master?

Please compare these two statements, written within one year of each other:

"No-one will deny the fact that Srila Prabhupada is still present with us. But as long as we are conditioned by the material nature we will not be able to perceive him and communicate with him [...] a person from the material platform, a conditioned soul, will not be able to communicate with him directly." (1993)

"How many millions of such souls are there who have yet to write, who are directly experiencing your mercy daily, who read your books with implicit faith, whom you talk to in dreams and pictures, whose lives you change abruptly and reward with tears when chanting the holy names? [...] I think these people are meeting you every day." (1994)

The first statement was written by GBC-elected guru **HH Bhakti Caru Swami** (Letter of 24th September 1993). It says, essentially, that Srila Prabhupada is a "physical", not a spiritual master, since not a single conditioned soul is capable of perceiving or communicating with Srila Prabhupada.

The second statement was written by GBC-elected guru **HH Sivarama Swami** (*Vyasa-Puja* offering of 1994). It says, essentially, that Srila Prabhupada is a spiritual, not a "physical" master, since millions of conditioned souls are capable of perceiving, communicating with and even meeting Srila Prabhupada every day. (Of course, the fact that he himself does not ACT on this under-

standing, but rather initiates disciples on the premise that they can only approach Srila Prabhupada through him, is another matter entirely!).

How can the guru hoaxers expect others to swallow the philosophy they are peddling when they cannot even agree with each other!?



Srila Prabhupada: the real Guru

Tolerance and respect in ISKCON

"As a spiritual leader, I have to cultivate tolerance, respect and humility."

(Gauri Das, Temple President, Bhaktivedanta Manor, Hindu Forum news report, 14 July 2006)

Is this the "tolerance and respect" Gauri Das has in mind?

"The suspensions from the Manor that you have received include that you can not attend any functions or even drop your family in the car park."

(Gauri Das, Temple President, Bhaktivedanta Manor, letter to IRM supporter, 12 December 2003)

"Those who [...] agree with the views and publications (of the IRM) are suspended by the Manor Temple Council from visiting Bhaktivedanta Manor."

(Gauri Das, Temple President, Bhaktivedanta Manor, letter to IRM supporter, 17 February 2005)

If so, we would hate to see what Gauri Das behaving in an intolerant and disrespectful manner would entail!

Spreading Srila Prabhupada's glories in Germany



By
Jan
Hofmann

Düsseldorf
Germany

I first learned about Krishna Consciousness at a very young age. I was about 15 or 16 years old when I got introduced to it by a devotee whom I knew from going to straight-edge hardcore rock shows. Straight-edge hardcore is a form of music similar to punk rock, with the main difference being that the people who are into this music – unlike most punk rockers – abstain from drinking, smoking or the use of any other drugs, as well as from eating meat. After having experimented with what you call “soft” drugs and alcohol a little bit, I had taken on this way of life. One day while walking through my hometown I saw some devotees doing *harinama* (chanting) on the streets. Not knowing who these people were, I got closer and saw my friend amidst these people. The chanting and dancing continued for a while and afterwards my friend invited me to have some food with the devotees which I willingly accepted. I began associating with him a lot more after this day, eagerly trying to find out what this religion he was following was all about. After a while I found myself attending Sunday feasts at the local ISKCON temple and *Nama-hatta* (congregational) programs in my city, Düsseldorf, regularly. I started reading *Bhagavad-gita* and even chanted occasionally.

Although I was still very young, I have always had a profound interest in philosophy. None of the stuff I had read before was like what I read by Srila Prabhupada. Prabhupada's words were clear and simple, yet they were able to explain all the things

I had always wanted to know – which no one else had been able to before.

Since I was already leading a drug- and meat-free lifestyle, to me it felt like Krishna Consciousness was the next logical step to take. I thought that this philosophy was complementing what I was already following anyway. For whatever reason I never really took this step though, e.g. I never joined a temple, never started chanting regularly etc.

As life continued and I got older, I started losing interest. The usual teenager stuff became a lot more important than my interest in spirituality and eventually I got completely out of Krishna Consciousness. Although not refraining from my straight edge lifestyle, I was completely neglecting my spiritual life.

My inquisitiveness and search for spirituality re-emerged during my mandatory military service in the German army. The boredom and plainness of my service there made me question my surroundings and life in general again. Since most of my comrades were drinking when off-duty, I had a lot of free time on my hands in which I looked into different philosophies like Buddhism, ancient Chinese philosophy and so forth. It was during this time I also read *Raja Vidya: The King Of Knowledge* by Srila Prabhupada and again, liked this more than any of the stuff I had read previously. But still more time passed without me getting serious about my spiritual endeavors. I felt Prabhupada's teachings were right, yet I was too comfortable to actually apply anything of what I was reading to my life.

It was a trip to New York City later that year during which I met Brahmabhuta Das and Jayananda Das from the IRM NYC (New York City) which made me finally realize what a great gift I was de-

liberately neglecting for so long. Strolling around the streets of Manhattan I was approached by a devotee (Brahmabhuta) who invited me and my friends to the Sunday feast, which turned out to be the celebration day of Lord Sri Krishna's appearance day on this planet about 5000 years ago, called Janmastami.

I loved the atmosphere at the temple and participated in the *kirtana*. It felt very natural and brought back a lot of memories. During the feast which followed one of the IRM devotees, Jayananda Das, sat down with us and explained to us about the IRM and how this temple was no ordinary ISKCON temple. Upon leaving he gave me a copy of *BTP*, which I started reading – eager to find out what this revolutionary movement was all about – as soon as I got home.

Unfortunately, I didn't understand much of what I was reading. Although I knew a lot about Krishna Consciousness, I never knew anything about initiation or concerning the practice of guru-worship. I did not even know anyone besides Srila Prabhupada was being worshipped within ISKCON! Actually I thought Srila Prabhupada WAS ISKCON's Guru and everybody was following him happily!

Back in Germany, I kept in touch with Jayananda who kept explaining to me what I had read in *BTP* and told me about all the horrible crimes which went on in the guise of religion. I was completely unaware of this and was shocked to hear what happened behind the curtains of this movement.

Jayananda also introduced me to Krishnakant, with whom he advised I should start corresponding with on a regular basis to learn more. Simultaneously I began to read Prabhupada's books again and also started chanting.

In Germany, the *yatra* (preaching mission) has collapsed with huge debts, and even in just the last few years, the decline in preaching is noticeable. A few years back, I would see some devotee distributing books almost every week. Now I have seen maybe 4 *sankirtana* (preaching) parties in the past 2 years. At temples you hardly ever see new faces at the Sunday feasts. ISKCON seems like a very small congregation with a certain amount of steady members/supporters but I don't think the movement is spreading anymore at all at this point of time.

I also attended *Nama-hatta* programs which were held by the devotee I mentioned in the beginning of this article. I had not talked to him for years and he told me he had been initiated by Jayapataka Swami (one of the original 11 guru hoaxers). I was suspicious due to what I heard about the current guru in ISKCON but still I wanted to associate with him, as he was the only person I knew who practiced Krishna Consciousness.

A lot of times I would find myself discussing arguments with him I had read in the IRM's publication *The Final Order*, one of the *BTP* magazines or in one of my various emails with Krishnakant. Nothing he was saying to defend the current guru system in ISKCON was making sense in the way the arguments of the IRM did. Literally all he was saying was “the *ritviks* are committing *Vaisnava-aparadha*” (offenses to Vaisnavas) and “the *ritvik*-system is not proved by *sastra* (scripture)”. At one point he even confessed that he knows his guru is not a pure devotee!

What is interesting about him is the fact that he too is very dissatisfied with how things are going within ISKCON, but unfortunately fails to see the root cause. He is a sincere devotee but he completely fails to see why ISKCON has be-

come what it is today. He agrees that the zonal *acharya* system (where the first 11 guru hoaxers divided up the ISKCON world into 11 zones, over which each ruled as an "acharya", or Guru), was wrong but thinks that things have been sorted out with the *acharya*-by-vote-system.

It became very clear to me that what the current guru system ISKCON is trying to sell people, is by no means what Srila Prabhupada authorised! There was no way I was ever going to accept someone as my spiritual master of whom even his disciples say he is not a pure devotee!

I also visited the temple in Berlin. Everyone was treating me very nicely, until I pulled a copy of *BTP* out of my backpack. I was insulted and practically thrown out of the temple for "distributing this false propaganda". It sadly proves how ISKCON deals with opposition. Even back when I first heard of Krishna Consciousness, I never thought of Prabhupada as "dead" and not accessible due to his physical absence from this planet. The position of the IRM confirmed this feeling with a logical and irrefutable philosophy. Prabhupada is alive and well and he continues to live on through his instructions!

So it is due to my involvement with the IRM that I finally got serious about Krishna Consciousness. I read and chant daily and I follow the regulative principles. I am very glad I did not stay in ISKCON

"...I got involved in supporting the mission of the IRM, because I knew about the greatness of Prabhupada's philosophy and mission and did not want to close my eyes to the scene of devastation his society had sadly become"

when I first got into it, as I might be following some bogus guru myself now! I am currently trying to help out the IRM by donating funds and distributing *BTP* magazines whenever I get the chance.

Also I just began translating the Special Summary Issue of *BTP* into German to reach more devotees, since not everybody is able to understand this fairly complicated topic in English. As soon as I am done with the translation I will also help to get the magazine printed and then distributed all over Germany.

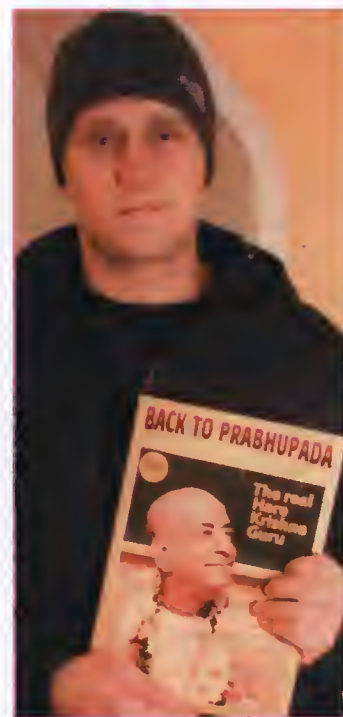
Currently, I am 23 years old and live in the western part of Germany, in Düsseldorf. I'm studying to become a primary school teacher at the University of Wuppertal. I love children and think that working with them will give me a great opportunity to influence them positively in their very first steps in life. A lot of young people I know are frustrated with society's materialistic way of life. Unfortunately, they don't know where to look for answers. A lot of them feel that they can't trust authorities and established institutions like the Church, for example, because they know that they don't practice what they preach. I think this goes for ISKCON in a similar way. People who might be interested in the philosophy are turned off by all the scandals within the movement, so that they don't consider it an alternative to what they are already seeing. To them it looks like just another cult!

To be completely honest, my initial reaction upon reading *BTP* was that I wanted nothing to do with it! After all, I wanted to make progress in my SPIRITUAL life and not talk "politics"! I think a lot of people who are on the outside of ISKCON feel the same way when they hear about the whole conflict. A lot of the supporters of the guru hoax argue this as well.

This dispute, however, is way too serious to just be abandoned for the sake of harmony within the society. A number of devotees don't see the importance of the IRM's mission. They think all the IRM does is cause trouble and therefore polarizes the already fractioned community of devotees. But it is our duty to pass on the knowledge we have discovered and prevent others from ruining their spiritual life, for without the bona fide Guru we cannot get back to Krishna! For only if we are connected to the bona fide Guru, can we actually become happy and advance in Krishna Consciousness. And this bona fide Guru IS His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada! He is the current link in our *sampradaya* – the disciplic succession which goes back to Lord Krishna himself. I think it is important to preach about this issue as finding the bona fide Guru is the most important step in the beginning of your spiritual life. ISKCON devotees discredit the mission of the IRM by calling it "political", although finding the correct person to inquire knowledge from is an integral part of Krishna Consciousness.

If you don't know who to approach, how can you get any answers at all? ISKCON today belittles Srila Prabhupada because although he is the one you have to approach for knowledge and instructions, you have to worship someone else in order to get the blessings for the service you are doing and the instructions you are following!

Thus I overcame my initial scepticism and got involved in supporting the mission of the IRM, because I knew about the greatness of Prabhupada's philosophy and mission and did not want to close my eyes to the scene of devastation his society had sadly become. There is a saying that



Prabhupada über alles!

goes "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem!" This is true because once you have seen the truth and don't voice your opinion about it, you automatically become part of the problem! So instead of just practicing Krishna Consciousness for myself and keeping quiet about the hoax, I wanted to help to make sure people would get the chance to hear what I have heard and in this way be able to experience real Krishna Consciousness through the bona fide Guru Srila Prabhupada, and not some watered-down version sold by people looking for prestige.

People who might have lost the will to follow Krishna Consciousness strictly or people like me who are new, can gain new hope and motivation if they see that there is an alternative to what is going on in ISKCON today – and that alternative is the IRM.

Readers are cordially invited to follow Bhakta Jan's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

“Physical presence is immaterial”

Hear Srila Prabhupada speak conclusively and repeatedly on the relevance of the physical presence of the Guru:

Real association is not physical

“Physical presence is immaterial. Presence of the transcendental sound received from the Spiritual Master should be the guidance of life. That will make our spiritual life successful. If you feel very strongly about my absence you may place my pictures on my sitting places and this will be source of inspiration for you.”

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 19/1/67)

“So we should associate by vibration, and not by the physical presence. That is real association.”

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 18/8/68)

“It is sometimes misunderstood that if one has to associate with persons engaged in devotional service, he will not be able to solve the economic problem. To answer this argument, it is described here that one has to associate with liberated persons not directly, physically, but by understanding, through philosophy and logic, the problems of life.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 3.31.48, purport)

“There are two conceptions, the physical conception and the vibrational conception. The physical conception is temporary. The vibrational conception is eternal. [...] When we feel separation from Kṛṣṇa or the Spiritual Master, we should just try to remember their words or instructions, and we will no longer feel that separation. Such association with Kṛṣṇa and the

Spiritual Master should be association by vibration not physical presence. That is real association.”

(Elevation to Kṛṣṇa Consciousness, BBT 1973 edition, p. 57)

Physical absence no bar to association

“But always remember that I am always with you. As you are always thinking of me, I am always thinking of you also. Although physically we are not together, we are not separated spiritually. So we should be concerned only with this spiritual connection.”

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 13/11/69)

“There are two ways of association - by vani and by vapuh. Vani means words and vapuh means physical presence. Physical presence is sometimes appreciable and sometimes not, but vani continues to exist eternally. Therefore, one must take advantage of the vani, not the physical presence.”

(Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta, Antya-līla 5, Conclusion)

Paramananda: “We’re always feeling your presence very strongly, Srila Prabhupada, simply by your teachings and your instructions. We’re always meditating on your instructions.”

Srila Prabhupada: “Thank you. That is the real presence. Physical presence is not important.”

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, 6/10/77)

Devotee: “...so sometimes the Spiritual Master is far away. He may be in Los Angeles. Somebody is coming to Homburg Temple. He thinks ‘How will the Spiritual Master be pleased?’”

Srila Prabhupada: “Just follow his order, Spiritual Master is along with you by his words. Just like my Spiritual Master is not physically present, but I am associating with him by his words.”

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 18/8/71)

Srila Prabhupada’s guidance not checked by physical absence

“Reception of spiritual knowledge is never checked by any material condition.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 7.7.1, purport)

“The potency of transcendental sound is never minimised because the vibrator is apparently absent.”

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 2.9.8, purport)

“I shall remain your personal guidance, physically present or not physically present, as I am getting guidance from my Guru Maharaja.”

(Srila Prabhupada Room

Conversation, 14/7/77)

“I am always with you. Never mind if I am physically absent.”

(Srila Prabhupada Letter 16/9/67)

Srila Prabhupada is the living Guru

“So although the physical body is not present, the vibration should be accepted as the presence of the Spiritual Master, vibration. What we have heard from the Spiritual Master, that is living.”

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 13/1/69)

“Kṛṣṇa and his representative are the same. Similarly, the spiritual master can be present wherever the disciple wants. A spiritual master is the principle, not the body.

Just like on television can be seen in thousands of places by the principle of relay monitoring.”

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 28/5/68)

Srila Prabhupada gives personal instruction through his books

“The instruction given in my books is supposed to be personal instruction. When we read the Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, it is understood that we are receiving personal instructions of Kṛṣṇa. No physical barrier is there in the case of spiritual affairs.”

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 14/10/73)

Paramahansa: “My question is, a pure devotee, when he comments on Bhagavad-gītā, someone who never sees him physically, but he just comes in contact with the commentary, explanation, is this the same thing?”

Srila Prabhupada: “Yes. You can associate with Kṛṣṇa by reading Bhagavad-gītā. And these saintly persons, they have given their explanations, comments. So where is the difficulty?”

(Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 11/6/74)

Conclusion

Though Srila Prabhupada has never stated that his physical presence is essential, but has actually stated the opposite, the GBC continue to insist that Srila Prabhupada’s physical absence prevents him from continuing to act as the spiritual master (dikṣa/initiating). Who are we going to accept – Srila Prabhupada or the GBC guru hoaxers?

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole dikṣa Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and dikṣa Guru for ISKCON. The IRM’s position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.



Readers' questions and challenges

"Jayapataka Swami was instructed by Srila Prabhupada to make 50,000 disciples"

- Bhakti Rasa Devi Dasi, Los Angeles, USA

Editor replies:

Even Jayapataka Swami does not claim this. He claims the more modest figure of 10,000, stating:

"In your transcendental literatures you repeatedly mention how you hope for the day when all your followers will be initiating spiritual masters, initiating even 10,000 or more disciples into the guru parampara." (Jayapataka Swami, *Vyasa Puja* offering to Srila Prabhupada, 1998)

However, the important thing is what Srila Prabhupada says, not what Jayapataka Swami claims Srila Prabhupada says. And the above "instruction" is not mentioned even once, not to speak of "repeatedly", in any of Srila Prabhupada's literatures. Srila Prabhupada was aware of such false statements being attributed to him, and hence gave the following warnings:

"Unless it is there from me in writing, there are so many things that 'Prabhupada said.'" (Srila Prabhupada Letter, 2/9/75)

"...just like in our ISKCON there are so many false things: 'Prabhupada said this, Prabhupada said that.'" (Srila Prabhupada Letter, 7/11/72)

"Sometimes they say, 'Prabhupada said it.' More misleading. Yes." (Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 3/2/75)

"Just like in our society, sometimes they do something nonsense and they say, 'Prabhupada said.'" (Srila Prabhupada Conversation, 9/5/75)

Thus unless Jayapataka Swami can show his written authorization from Srila Prabhupada to initiate even one disciple, let alone 10,000 or more, we will only follow what we know Srila Prabhupada authorised in writing: *ritvik*.

"We should highlight Srila Prabhupada instead of criticizing adversaries, particularly several gurus who are unmistakably adorable. People should be educated in a positive way by advocating principles of true Krsna consciousness, rather than pointing out to adversaries."

- Vijay Krishna Das, Calcutta, India

Editor replies: It is not possible to highlight Srila Prabhupada as the bona fide Guru in ISKCON, while at the same time NOT point out Srila Prabhupada's adversaries who falsely claim that they are his appointed successors, i.e. those "several gurus" whom you describe as "unmistakably adorable". *BTP* is designed to point out that these personalities are unmistakably NOT adorable, as they have illegally taken Srila Prabhupada's position. Thus it is not possible to avoid pointing out what is the wrong path, when stating the correct path. Similarly, in being positive about Srila Prabhupada, it is necessary to also point out what is NOT positive:

"To become liberated from material bondage, one must give up the association of worldly people and accept the association of devotees, positive and negative process-
es are mentioned in this regard." (Srimad-Bhagavatam 5.12.16, purport)

Indeed, *BTP* is completely positive, since it only speaks the truth. If you are able to tell us anything more positive than the truth, please do let us know.

Thus to state who the bona fide Guru is and how he should be accepted, is not only one of the "principles of true Krsna consciousness", but actually the principle which must be understood before one even begins Krsna consciousness. Thus we are actually doing what you have requested.

"Your *BTP* magazine is blasphemous, offensive, junk journalistic ramblings."

- Bhaktin Cindy, Los Angeles, USA

Editor replies:

As you know, it is not possible for the truth to cause any offenses, for then *dharma* or righteousness would itself be the source of offenses, which of course is contradictory. Therefore unless one can point out anything in *BTP* which is untrue, which to date no one has, there is nothing which could possibly cause offense. Similarly, to speak the truth cannot be blasphemous.

However, the real offense is being committed by every second of ISKCON's existence, since its existence today is based entirely on having severely disobeyed the orders of Srila Prabhupada, and instead perpetrating a huge fraud known as the Great Guru Hoax, and such disobedience is considered the greatest offense:

Hrdayananda: (translating) "He wants to know if the greatest offense is to disobey the guru."

Prabhupada: "Yes, that is the first offense. Guror avajna, sruti-sastra-nindanam. Sruti-sastra-nindanam guror avajna. If you accept guru and again disobey him, then what is your position? You are not a gentleman. You promise before guru, before Krsna, before fire, that 'I shall obey your order; I shall execute this,' and again you do not do this. Then you are not even a gentleman, what to speak about devotee. This is common sense." (Srila Prabhupada Lecture, Mexico, 11/2/75)

Therefore those who are opposed to offenses would be better off avoiding the hoaxer gurus, rather than the pages of *BTP*, which is the only vehicle actively working to help devotees from being a party to such offenses.

"I am a very newcomer to ISKCON and have read about this IRM and Guru parampara and all these debates on your website and also seen people and Swamis following Guru Parampara inside ISKCON. I honestly think that you are doing very bad under the name of Krishna and Prabhupad. You know many newcomers like me will leave Iskcon just because of confusion created and particularly because of your wrong advertisements."

- Dushyant Sarvaiya, UK

Editor replies: You say you are a very newcomer and yet you have read all the debates on our website. Yet most devotees in ISKCON have never even read all the debates (over 100 papers), so it is very surprising that you have.

The fact you are unable to state ONE thing which is wrong in what we are saying, but only complain about its supposed EFFECT, is evidence that you cannot defeat what we say.

When one is unable to defeat an argument, one will either attack the presenter of the argument (*argumentum ad hominem*), or try and attack the supposed EFFECT of the argument. In this way, one can understand they have no ability to actually defeat the argument itself. Hence the easy option is to make a false point about the so-called effect of something to try and discredit it altogether.

Therefore, saying that IRM papers cause confusion and that therefore they must be bad, is an alternative to actually challenging WHAT the IRM papers say, since this cannot be done. Because then one would see that not only are IRM papers all correct, but that they do not cause confusion either, but rather present clarity and truth.

We welcome all correspondence
Email us: irm@iskconirm.com

ISKCON guru exposes his own guru system

For those who may still have lingering doubts about the IRM's case, we invite you to read below some extraordinary claims made by HH Prahladananda Maharaja (henceforward 'Maharaja'), who is a GBC-approved initiating guru, and thus these revelations come from a source which the GBC itself promotes as being authoritative.

GBC body does not represent Srila Prabhupada

“Unfortunately, since the departure of Srila Prabhupada, the GBC Body has not maintained his clear authority structure. [...] In the absence of a GBC Body that clearly represents the desires of Srila Prabhupada to preach Kṛṣṇa consciousness as a unified movement, the Society remains together more on the basis of a loose confederation of initiating gurus and independent local leaders, than as a unified movement of surrendered servants.”

(Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

According to Maharaja then, the GBC has deviated continuously since Srila Prabhupada's departure in having never maintained the authority structure given by him, and currently does not represent Srila Prabhupada's desires for spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness.

No *uttama-adhikaris* in ISKCON

Having trashed the GBC body, Maharaja now turns his guns on his fellow ISKCON gurus. First he defines an *uttama-adhikari* as someone who is completely aware of the Supersoul (the Lord residing in the heart):

“Such an *uttama-adhikari* Vaisnava is in perfect touch with the Supersoul and at every moment knows the Supreme Lord's desires.” (Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

But Maharaja does not think that such a person exists in ISKCON today:

“If the GBC Body sees someone as a self-effluent acarya who is completely aware of the Supersoul and Srila Prabhupada's desires and

instructions they can and should follow his/her instructions. No one so far has been seen in that category.”

(Prahladananda Swami, Wed, 30 Aug 2006 14:32 +0300, emphasis added)

“To spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness in the absence of an advanced *uttama-adhikari* Vaisnava, third-class and second-class Vaisnavas must follow the instructions of Srila Prabhupada and learn the art of cooperation.” (Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006, emphasis added)

Guru Hoax Part 1 gurus were neophytes

“But as with the Gaudiya-Matha, just after His Divine Grace's disappearance, leading disciples disobeyed the orders of the Founder Acarya to work cooperatively under the GBC Body and, although the GBC Body met yearly, each initiating guru virtually occupied the position of an Acarya in his zone. These diksa gurus divided the world into 11 zonal Acarya regions and disunited the mission. [...] The imitation of *uttama-adhikaris* by these neophyte devotees undoubtedly led to their fall-downs and many subsequent problems in ISKCON.” (Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

Maharaja is referring here to the Great Guru Hoax Part 1, wherein the 11 persons appointed to act as *ritviks* and make disciples for Srila Prabhupada, pretended that they were actually successor Gurus to Srila Prabhupada.

Bogus Zonal Acharya system still continuing today

“Thus in ISKCON we not only still have what amounts to zonal Acaryas in different parts of the

world, such as India, but we have independent temple presidents or preachers accountable to no one but themselves.”

(Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

Here Maharaja has launched a not too veiled attack on HH Jayapataka Swami, the main guru in India, who was one of the original Zonal Acharya gurus attacked by Maharaja in the previous section. Hence Maharaja is effectively stating that HH Jayapataka Swami has been deviating continuously for the last 30 years, and that he is not strictly following the orders of Srila Prabhupada. As he further confirms:

“The main problem is that the GBC Body is supposed to supervise ISKCON and they are not doing this service adequately. Therefore, many leaders are not acting strictly according to the directions of his Divine Grace.”

(Prahladananda Swami, Wed, 30 Aug 2006 14:32 +0300)

ISKCON gurus not selfless

“Presently the GBC Body lacks authority. Some of its leading members are initiating gurus who do not want to surrender their high degree of autonomy in the Society. Some leaders in ISKCON cooperate with the Society only as long as they can retain their own autonomy. [...] If the GBC Body is to regain its authority, its members must become a disciplined body of devotees who are clearly selfless and enlightened in their dedication to Srila Prabhupada's mission.”

(Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

Above, Maharaja paints a grim picture of self-serving gurus whose calculated acts of co-operation are merely Machiavellian

plots to secure more autonomy and power for themselves, rather than to selflessly serve Srila Prabhupada's mission.

ISKCON leaders are enjoyers, not servants

“The gurus, initiating and instructing, have important roles in ISKCON. [...] Only if the leaders sincerely try to become servants of the previous Acaryas and give up the controlling and enjoying propensities can Srila Prabhupada's mission succeed. If the leaders take up this mood, they will find infinitely more spiritual pleasure in acting as Kṛṣṇa's simple instruments than in continuing even a subtle controlling mentality in trying to be appreciated as apparently empowered spiritual preachers.”

(Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

Maharaja's use of the phrase “If the leaders take up this mood” indicates a hope that the gurus may one day curtail their “controlling and enjoying propensities”. But why would he express such a hope unless he saw that this was predominantly their current mood? Why would Maharaja urge the gurus to give up such destructive propensities unless he could see them being exhibited?

ISKCON gurus in last snare of maya (illusion)

Maharaja opens the section from which the previous two critiques of ISKCON's gurus and leaders are taken by noting:

“The last snare of maya is to think oneself God, or even God's pure representative, worthy to be worshiped and served by others. [...] It is an attachment that is diffi-

cult to give up."

(Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

Seeing as Maharaja then went on to invite ISKCON'S gurus and leaders to become selfless and give up their propensity to control and enjoy (which is fed by the receipt of worship and service by their thousands of disciples), one can only assume Maharaja believes they have indeed fallen victim to *maya's* "last snare".

ISKCON not really successful

Though even ISKCON will acknowledge that their preaching in the West has declined substantially, comfort is taken from the fact that at least in India and the Eastern Bloc countries things are faring better. However, Prahladananda Maharaja gives a different perspective, stating that such successes are only due to temporary circumstances rather than being based on a platform that will yield permanent results:

"ISKCON sometimes takes pride in accomplishments that prove to be only temporary. [...] For example, in the former Eastern Block nations, in the absence of a strong Krsna conscious leader, a pattern is sometimes visible. After the demise of the Communist system, many people became interested in the process of Krsna consciousness and joined the temples. This resulted in a large force of preachers and a surge in book distribution. However, after some time the devotees married and had children, and then preaching and book distribution diminished [...] ISKCON's success appears to be due more to circumstances than to a viable management system that encourages long-term preaching. Another example can be seen in India, [...] again it is likely that success is due not to a viable management system, but to the unique circumstances of India."

(Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

Maharaja's great hypocrisy

Having criticised both the GBC body and the Zonal Acharya gurus as being deviant, Maharaja of course conveniently sidesteps the fact that he owes his own position as an ISKCON guru completely to these same deviant entities; because Maharaja is one of the beneficiaries of the Great Guru Hoax Part 2, whereby he lined up to take his guru authorisation from this same deviant GBC body, which also contained the remaining Zonal Acharya gurus at the time. Indeed, having attacked everyone else, to cover his own position he fabricates out of thin air the following instructions:

1) "Srila Prabhupada has given us the authorization process, that all his disciples, if authorized by the GBC Body, can take disciples."

(Prahladananda Swami, Wed, 30 Aug 2006 14:32 +0300)

Srila Prabhupada has never stated that "all his disciples, if authorized by the GBC Body, can take disciples." The unauthorised, current 'guru by majority vote' system was invented by the GBC as a reaction to their previous unauthorised 'zonal acharya system'.

2) "Srila Prabhupada created the GBC Body to oversee that his teachings are properly implemented within ISKCON. These teachings direct that everyone in ISKCON, including initiating and instructing gurus, work cooperatively under Srila Prabhupada's authority system to spread Krsna consciousness."

(Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

There is no teaching of Srila Prabhupada which even mentions "initiating gurus" other than himself ever existing in ISKCON, not to speak of such entities working "cooperatively under Srila Prabhupada's authority system to spread Krsna consciousness." Srila Prabhupada did, however, state that only he would remain the initiating Guru:



HH Prahladananda Swami: putting the boot into his own GBC guru system

"The GBC should all be the instructor gurus. I am the initiator guru, and you should be the instructor guru by teaching what I am teaching and doing what I am doing." (Srila Prabhupada

Letter to Madhudvisa, 4/8/75)

3) "Srila Prabhupada clearly established ISKCON's system of management with Temple Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers, under the supervision of a GBC representative and ultimately the GBC Body. He gave no managerial position to the initiating gurus within ISKCON." (Duties of GBC and Guru in ISKCON, Prahladananda Swami, 2006)

Yes, Srila Prabhupada could not have given a "managerial position to the initiating gurus within ISKCON", because he never ever even spoke of a plurality of "initiating gurus within ISKCON", period.

Conclusion

This is probably as much a devastating critique of ISKCON's current leadership, its GBC and unauthorised gurus, as anything that has appeared so far in the pages of BTP! As a fellow guru and ISKCON leader, being the Sannyasa Minister, Maharaja's words carry weight and cannot be considered to be biased! So if one of ISKCON's own gurus and leaders is stating about today's ISKCON that:

- Its governing body has been deviating for 30 years;
- Many gurus are deviating;
- None of the gurus are advanced in Krishna consciousness;

• Its leaders are enjoyers rather than servants;

• It hardly has any permanent genuine preaching successes;

Who in their right mind is going to want to join such a movement?!

Being compromised himself, Maharaja argues that the solution to everything is simply to make the GBC much more powerful, rather than root out the underlying cause of the problem, namely severe disobedience to Srila Prabhupada; all stemming from the unauthorised removal of him as the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON. We have noted that Maharaja obviously cannot identify the real cause of ISKCON's malaise, since he himself is the beneficiary of its false guru system. He therefore needs to perform a juggling act which allows him to criticise all and sundry, but still ensure his own position remains intact. As we have seen, to do this he has simply fabricated the authority for ISKCON's current 'guru by GBC vote' system, to which he owes his own guru existence, out of thin air.

Though Maharaja's critique of ISKCON is welcomed, by failing to state the correct solution of accepting Srila Prabhupada as the Guru, but rather continuing to offer the same unauthorised and, by his own admission, unqualified guru, he is simply ensuring the continued exodus from ISKCON into other deviant movements, such as the one led by Narayana Maharaja, which at least claim their gurus are qualified!

Laying the *siksa-diksa* myth to rest

As dissatisfaction with ISKCON's unauthorised guru system has grown over the years, the Movement's guru hoaxers and others have felt compelled to develop and espouse new myths to either prop up a failing guru system, or provide a non-*ritvik* alternative to it. These myths utilise the fact that Srila Prabhupada taught there are two types of spiritual master, *siksa* (the guru who instructs) and *diksa* (the guru who initiates). Here is the myth being legislated by the Governing Body Commission (GBC) for ISKCON:

"Whereas in their overemphasis on diksa gurus, Srila Prabhupada's disciples and followers failed in various ways to properly establish and sustain Srila Prabhupada's unique role and personal relationship with all ISKCON devotees as the Founder-Acarya and pre-eminent siksa guru in ISKCON; ISKCON leaders failed to also properly establish the importance and role of siksa gurus in ISKCON;"
(GBC resolutions 1999)

And below we paraphrase this in more blunt terms:

"There is no need to challenge our Great Guru. Hoax and adopt the crazy idea that Srila Prabhupada is the sole diksa Guru for ISKCON, since the only justifiable complaint is that we may have given too much prominence to the diksa guru (the guru who initiates - namely us, the GBC gurus) over and above the siksa guru (the guru who instructs - namely Srila Prabhupada). Since Srila Prabhupada is everyone's siksa Guru, all devotees should be happy in the knowledge that while we (the guru hoaxers) carry on initiating everyone and receiving good-as-God worship as diksa gurus, our disciples can still have a nice siksa relationship with Srila Prabhupada."

In this article we shall finally put to rest the great *siksa/diksa* myth, along with all its offshoots, by defeating the arguments used in its defence.

What did Srila Prabhupada order?

Obviously the most crucial point that should first be considered is what type of guru did Srila Prabhupada establish himself as. Since it is just plain, historical fact that he left himself in place as the sole *diksa* Guru for ISKCON, as per his final directive on initiation sent to all GBCs and Temple Presidents on July 9th 1977 (see *BTP Special Summary Issue*, page 4), then what right or authority does the GBC have to in any way change, redefine or limit his Guru status? Since Srila Prabhupada left himself in place as ISKCON's sole *diksa* Guru and gave no authority to the GBC to ever change this, then clearly anyone claiming to be his follower must accept this. Anyone who teaches anything different from this is no type of guru at all. Thus, from the outset the myth is defeated, since Srila Prabhupada's position remains unchanged from that occupied before his departure.

"Either is sufficient"

The following verse is also sometimes used to argue that a *siksa* guru is equal to a *diksa* guru, and therefore we can just take shelter of Srila Prabhupada as a *siksa* guru, and this is enough:

"...on the absolute platform siksa and diksa gurus are identical, and it is offensive to try and discriminate between them."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Adi-lila* 1:47, purport).

But by the same verse, since Srila Prabhupada is the *diksa* Guru of ISKCON, then to try and de-emphasise this on the plea of promoting his role as a *siksa* guru would be offensive, since one would be trying to discriminate between Srila Prabhupada's role as the *diksa* Guru, and Srila Prabhupada's role as the *siksa* Guru.

"Srila Prabhupada can only give *siksa* to newcomers, but not *diksa*"

If Srila Prabhupada can still give *siksa* to everyone as the GBC concede, and if "on the absolute platform *siksa* and *diksa* gurus are identical", then why can he not give *diksa* to everyone too? According to Srila Prabhupada, the *siksa* guru normally goes on to become the *diksa* guru anyway:

"Generally a spiritual master who constantly instructs a disciple in spiritual science becomes his initiating spiritual master later on."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Adi-lila*, 1.35, purport)

"It is the duty of the siksa guru or diksa guru to instruct the disciple in the right way, and it depends on the disciple to execute the process. According to sastric injunctions, there is no difference between siksa guru and diksa guru, and generally the siksa guru later on becomes the diksa guru."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.12.32, purport)

The GBC have violated the above principle every day of every year since 1977 since on the one hand they promote Srila Prabhupada as the main *siksa* Guru for anyone who joins ISKCON, but on the other they flatly deny that it is even possible that he "later on becomes the *diksa* guru". What happens normally "later on" in ISKCON is that all Srila Prabhupada's disciples are stolen by the guru hoaxers.

Srila Prabhupada taught that we are permitted just one *diksa* Guru, who must be completely liberated, and unlimited *siksa* gurus who may or may not be liberated. The confusion between *diksa* and *siksa* gurus occurs because their titles are confused with their function. Thus it is sometimes assumed that only the *siksa* guru gives *siksa*, but not the *diksa* guru. However, as the last quote above clearly demonstrates, the *diksa* guru also instructs. This should

be obvious, otherwise how else will he transmit *divya-jnana* (transcendental knowledge)?:

Pradyumna: "Guru-padas-rayah. *"First one must take shelter of the lotus feet of a spiritual master."* Tasmāt Kṛṣṇa- dīksadi-sikṣanam. Tasmāt, *"from him"*, Kṛṣṇa-dīksadi-sikṣanam, *"one should take Kṛṣṇa-dīksa, initiation, and siksa."*

Srila Prabhupada: "*Dikṣa means divya-jñanam kṣapayati iti dikṣa. Which explains the divya-jñana, transcendental, that is dikṣa. Di, divya, dīksanam. dikṣa. So divya-jñana, transcendental knowledge(....)*"

Pradyumna: "Kṛṣṇa- dīksadi-sikṣanam."

Srila Prabhupada: "*Sikṣanam. We have to learn. If you don't learn, how you'll make progress?"*

(*Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation*, 27/1/77)

That *siksa* is included in *diksa* is evident from the most well known verse on the guru-disciple relationship:

"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth."

(*Bhagavad-gita*, 4:34 [1972 ed.])

In this verse the word "*upadekṣyanti*" is translated in the word-for-word translation as meaning to "initiate"; however, in the full translation this to "initiate" is rendered as requiring the Guru to "impart" (knowledge). Consequently the "Prabhupada is *siksa* not *diksa*" advocates are caught in a logistical trap of their own making. If Srila Prabhupada is capable of "imparting knowledge" or "*divya-jñana*" to newcomers, which the GBC concede in advocating him as the pre-eminent *siksa* Guru for ISKCON, then he must by definition be able to initiate or give *diksa* too. Transcendental knowledge is, after all, the main constituent of *diksa*:

"Dikṣa actually means initiating a disciple with transcendental

knowledge by which he becomes freed from all material contamination."

(Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-līla, 4:112, purport, emphasis added)

"Dikṣa is the **process** by which one can awaken his transcendental knowledge and vanquish all reactions caused by sinful activity. A person expert in the study of the revealed scriptures knows this **process** as dikṣa."

(Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-līla, 15.108, purport, emphasis added)

It is obviously ludicrous to argue that Srīla Prabhupada can impart transcendental knowledge when not on the planet if we call him a *sikṣa* Guru, but not do so if we call him a *dikṣa* Guru. Therefore, if Srīla Prabhupada can impart transcendental knowledge to newcomers whilst not on this planet, and he is the latest or current link in the chain of disciplic succession, what prevents him from being their *dikṣa* Guru?

Thus since the GBC accept that Srīla Prabhupada can impart "transcendental knowledge" to everyone via his "pre-eminent *sikṣa*", and since Srīla Prabhupada has already agreed to accept as a disciple anyone who follows his teachings for a minimum of six months (via representational priests or *ritviks*), the GBC and others should stop inventing baseless myths and start following his pre-eminent instructions, beginning with the one issued on July 9th 1977, which continued his position as the sole *dikṣa* Guru of ISKCON.

"Ours is a *sikṣa parampara* (disciplic succession)"

This argument is used to comfort those who may find it hard to have absolute faith in the current ISKCON guru system, given its appalling track record, yet wish for whatever reason to remain within the institution. By teaching that our guru-disciple lineage has been primarily based on *sikṣa*, rather than *dikṣa*, the GBC clearly hopes to dupe doubtful newcom-



His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada: ISKCON's *dikṣa* Guru

ers into believing they can get all they need in the form of *sikṣa* from Srīla Prabhupada, whilst still fully participating in, contributing towards and promoting the great *dikṣa* guru hoax. This is nothing more than another example of bait-and-switch: "Join our great lineage which is primarily based on *sikṣa*, wherein you can take full shelter of Srīla Prabhupada as your pre-eminent *sikṣa* Guru without limitation, but please don't mind if we just humbly initiate everyone since we are just lowly, insignificant *dikṣa* gurus."

Yet Srīla Prabhupada never taught anywhere that "ours is a *sikṣa parampara*". Surely he would have mentioned this at least once somewhere, if it was to be such an integral part of ISKCON preaching. Even if ours was "a *sikṣa* lineage", that would still not justify removing Srīla Prabhupada as ISKCON's *dikṣa* Guru without authority. Indeed, it makes no sense to argue that Srīla Prabhupada is everyone's instructing Guru, and then at the same time ruthlessly hound from the society anyone who wishes to follow Srīla Prabhupada's instruction on how initiation was meant to proceed, which is precisely what the GBC now do.

"*Dikṣa* guru does not matter"

By extending the previous argument, it is argued that since it is *sikṣa* alone which matters, then who gives you *dikṣa* is not important. However, this begs the obvious question, that if who the *dikṣa* guru is so insignificant, why

are the GBC and their supporters fighting tooth and nail to ensure that Srīla Prabhupada is NOT the *dikṣa* Guru? As soon as Srīla Prabhupada's name is in the frame for being *dikṣa* Guru, all of a sudden, who the *dikṣa* Guru is becomes a life and death question, to be resolved via violence, banning and suppression, as we have reported in detail in previous issues. So this alone exposes the hypocrisy and double standard of this argument. In addition, the very fact that some of these "unimportant *dikṣa* gurus" fell down proves none of ISKCON's gurus were ever properly authorised members of the infallible chain of spiritual masters descending sequentially from Lord Śrī Kṛṣṇa (see *BTP* Special Issue, page 10); and hence unimportant or not, ISKCON post-'77 has never had any bona fide, authorised *dikṣa* gurus.

"*Dikṣa* formality over-emphasised"

A related objection is that not only who is the *dikṣa* Guru not important, but that *dikṣa* itself is only a formality for connecting to the disciplic succession (and thus who you get this formality from does not matter), and therefore the IRM is unnecessarily over-occupied with these *dikṣa* formalities. Ironically, this complaint is made just as equally by others who are also opposed to the GBC, but at the same time wish to evolve some alternative to the IRM. Thus it will be argued that the only thing which matters is that we "put Srīla Prabhupada in the cen-

tre", either as "Founder-Acarya", "Prominent Guru", "*Sampradaya Acarya*" etc.; anything, as long we can avoid the dreaded "D" word ("*dikṣa*" Guru).

Firstly, the objection is immediately rendered ludicrous when it is noted that the IRM does not as yet even grant *dikṣa* formalities (initiation ceremonies) – so it can hardly be something we are over-emphasising! And secondly, how about this for a novel suggestion – instead of everyone just inventing a "solution" that allows us to still "connect" to Srīla Prabhupada – why not just connect to Srīla Prabhupada IN THE WAY HE WANTED AND ORDERED?!

Thus the IRM's position is not about *dikṣa* or *sikṣa*, or over-emphasising this or that. It is simply about doing what Srīla Prabhupada ordered; he set up ISKCON to run in a certain way, with him as the *dikṣa* Guru from whom everyone who joined ISKCON took initiation, with his disciples simply being preachers to spread Srīla Prabhupada's teachings and bring all people to become his disciples. Shortly before his departure, Srīla Prabhupada ordered this set-up to be continued unchanged, and we must honour this if we consider ourselves followers of Srīla Prabhupada.

Conclusion

Let us follow Srīla Prabhupada how HE wanted, and assign to him all the roles which HE ordered, and stop speculating. All glories to Srīla Prabhupada – ISKCON's *dikṣa* Guru!

Different rules for different gurus

Please read the message below from HH Bhakti Caru Swami (BCS):

"It is nice that you are getting such wonderful spiritual inspirations. I have noticed that you have deep appreciation for Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja. Feel free to cultivate that spiritual attachment. Spiritual Life is a journey through the heart. Especially when your heart is taking you to the lotus feet of such an exalted disciple of Srila Prabhupada, it should be cultivated without any reservation. It is a pity that you could not meet him in person. He was a very exalted devotee and a wonderful disciple of Srila Prabhupada. Nevertheless, you can rest assured that spiritual relationships are not limited to material time and space. Although you did not meet Him when he was physically present you can endeavor to cultivate your relationship with him." (BCS Istaghosti, Mon, April 10th, 2006)

If the name "Srila Gaura Govinda Maharaja" is replaced with "Srila Prabhupada", the above message is exactly what the IRM tells anyone in regards to their relationship with Srila Prabhupada. But it seems that double standards discriminating against Srila Prabhupada are in place. For we have already quoted BCS on page 7 of this issue saying that:

"No-one will deny the fact that Srila Prabhupada is still present with us. But as long as we are conditioned by the material nature we will not be able to perceive him and communicate with him [...] a person from the material platform, a conditioned soul, will not be able to communicate with him directly." (BCS, September 24th, 1993)

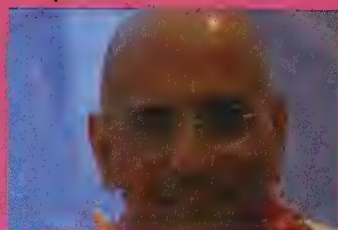
So why is it that in the case of HH Gaura Govinda Swami, BCS claims that "spiritual relationships are not limited to material time and space", but in the case of Srila Prabhupada, we "cannot perceive or communicate with him", even though in both cases the gurus are not physically present on the planet?

Further, we quoted BCS in *BTP* 11 telling his disciples that:

"I have mentioned many times that my responsibility as your spiritual master is to take you to the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada." (BCS, Durban disciples meeting, April 7th, 2006)

So why is it that in the case of Gaura Govinda Swami, BCS claims that one's heart can directly take us to his lotus feet; but in the case of Srila Prabhupada it is not possible to approach his lotus feet without BCS taking us there, even though in both cases the gurus are not physically present on the planet?

It seems that the guru not being on the planet, and one never having met the guru when he was physically present, only becomes an issue if that person is Srila Prabhupada. If it happens to be one of the guru hoaxers, then there are different rules in operation! Thus, more evidence that the guru hoaxers fabricate their "philosophy" as they go along to, on the one hand, ensure they stay in the picture, and on the other, ensure that Srila Prabhupada remains shut out.



Extreme left: HH Gaura Govinda Swami
Left: HH Bhakti Caru Swami
Right: His Divine Grace A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



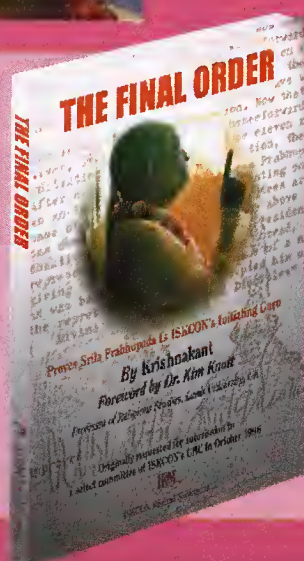
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From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK